Academic Success
and
Academic Honesty

Engineering and Computer Science

Victoria University of Wellington

Why are you at University

- Career
  - Getting a job
  - Learning skills so that you will be able to do your job

- Self development
  - Building self-confidence, independence and responsibility

What we expect for University Students

High school	University
You were told what to do.	We expect you to take responsibility for what you do, and the consequences of your decisions.
You were told what to learn and how to learn.	We expect you to read and understand the assigned material. We expect you to prepare for lectures by yourself.
You just had to learn the textbook.	We may not follow the textbook. We will give additional information about the topic you are studying.
Your homework was step-by-step, based on the lessons and the textbook.	We will give homework that requires you to think, and solve problems, and learn things for yourself.

How do you achieve Academic Success

- Attend your Lectures
  - Ask questions: this will enhance your learning process

- Manage Your Time
  - Study for 2-3 hours for every hour of class time (e.g., if you have 6 hours of class per week, aim to study at least 12-18 hours per week).
  - We expect you to take 3 hours in the lab **and** 11 hours outside the lab for each assignment
  - Hand in assignments before the deadlines.

- Ask for a help from lecturer, co-teacher and the School of International Education

- Have a Positive Attitude to learning.
  - Be positive about your ability to succeed
  - Look forward to what your will learn: get curious about your subjects!

How do you study effectively?

- It depends on you!
  - different people learn in different ways!
- Working and learning with other people.

- Ways to fail:
  - Not getting help in the assignments when you need it (don't just keep staring at the problem)
    => ask for help, don't give up.
  - Getting too much help in the assignments (you don't learn anything)
    => you can only learn by doing, not by copying.

  - Leaving assignments to the last minute
  - Forgetting what assignments are due or when the tests are
  - Putting off the lectures until later

Learning to program; learning to design.

- You can't learn how to program or how to design by copying the answer!

  - The answer is not what you have to learn;

  - You must learn **how** to construct an answer to this kind of problem.

- When you are stuck, you may need some help!

  - You can copy little bits of code, as long as you understand what it does and how it works.

  - Just copy-and-paste doesn't use your brain! So you aren't learning anything.

  - If someone is helping you, they need to help you solve the problem,

  - If someone just gives you the answer, they haven't helped you at all
    (they have stopped you from learning!!)

How do you learn from other people's code?

- Here's the most efficient way to learn in this context:

  - Read a piece of code.

  - Understand all features of the language that are being used there.

  - Understand all the features of the libraries/frameworks that are being used there.

  - Learn the basics of those libraries/frameworks.

  - Understand what every line does and the purpose of those libraries/frameworks in the context of that piece of code.

  - Type your answer yourself, based on the other person's code.

- How does this help?

  - It forces your brain to understand all those different patterns and learn more efficiently.

  - Typing code yourself instead of just pasting helps you understand it better.

Academic Honesty

- At university, behaving with academic honesty means doing your own work even if you find the work challenging.
  - "*I would prefer even to fail with honor than win by cheating*." —Sophocles (400 BC)

- Central principles of Academic Honesty:
  - If you present something as your work, it should be done by you.
  - If you include something done by someone else, you must tell us and give them credit.

- How does this work with
  - getting information and help from the web (or other sources)
  - getting help from other students (or other people)
  - getting help from staff or tutors.
  - Working in groups.

Being honest about getting help from others

Be honest about where you get the code from!

- If you get code or help from someone else and you <u>declare</u> it,
  then you are being honest!!!

- If you get code or help from someone else and you <u>don't</u> declare it,
  then you are being dishonest.
    - Directly copying code without declaring it is dishonest
        - Copying and "hiding" it with little changes is still not your work!
    - Re-using someone else's code from a previous semester without declaring it is dishonest
    - Using code from the Internet without declaring it is dishonest
    - Allowing someone else to write your program for you is dishonest

Being honest about getting help from others

- Punishment if you are dishonest:
  - You won't learn, so you will probably fail the test and exam.
  - If caught, you'll lose marks --- or worse.

- If another student is helping you,
  - don't let them tell you the answer
  - make them tell you HOW.

Academic Honesty in Group Work

- It is essential that you always behave with academic honesty when you are participating in group work.
  - You must contribute your own original work to the group
  - You must properly acknowledge any work you got from other people.
- Otherwise, your whole group could be punished for dishonesty.

- Acting with academic honesty in group work also means that you have to commit fully to participating in group discussions and meeting agreed deadlines.
  - It is unfair to leave your group members feeling like they need to complete work you were supposed to complete.
  - It is even more unfair (and dishonest) to accept marks for group work if you have let others do your work for you.

How to be honest and help your friends

If another student asks for help…

- It is good to help them!
  - Helping them understand how to do it also helps you a lot!!!!
  - Students who spend time teaching what they've learned understand better than students who simply spend the same time re-studying.

But

- Don't give them the answer
  - Just giving them the answer doesn't help them and can get you in trouble.

- Do help them to understand the problem, and guide them to solve it themselves.

- If someone asks you for the answer, they are trying to steal your marks!

Policy on Cheating in VUW courses at XMUT

- Plagiarism – submitting other people's work as if it was yours without acknowledgement.

- This includes submitting work that includes copies of other student's work, copies of model answers, or copies of any other material.

- Copying material from the assigned textbook or lectures notes is not counted as plagiarism.
  - If the submitted work states where the copied material is from, then it is not plagiarism

- VUW will keep a list of every event of a student cheating in any of the courses it teaches at XMUT.

- If a student or group of students wishes to dispute an accusation of cheating, they should meet with the lecturer or course coordinator and explain what happened.

Penalties

- The penalties for cheating in assignments, quizzes or tests will depend on the student's history of cheating as recorded by VUW
  - **First** time, when a student has cheated in the course, they will receive 0 for any copied work, and will be given a standard warning and an explanation of what they did wrong.
  - **Second** time the student has cheated in the course, if there is no record of the student cheating in previous VUW courses, they will also receive 0 for any copied work.
    - The student must talk with the lecturer. They will be told what they did wrong, and the consequences of further cheating.
  - The **third** cheating event in any VUW course, the student will be given a mark of 0 for the entire assignment, quiz, or test (even if only part of it involved cheating)
    - The student will be given an explanation what they did wrong and gets a
    - **final warning** that cheating again will be reported to the School of International Education of XMUT .
  - The **fourth** cheating event in any VUW course, the student will be given 0 marks for the entire assignment/quiz/test (even if only cheating in part)
    - The student will be reported to the Dean of the School of International Education.